

**IN THE TITLE**

Please amend the title in the above-identified application to read as follows: —RECORDING METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONTINUOUS PLAYBACK OF FRAGMENTED SIGNALS—.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Page 1, after the title, insert This application is a divisional of U.S. application S/N 09/075,628,  
filed May 11, 1998.”

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Cancel claims 1-7.

Please add new claims 8-14 as indicated hereinbelow.

**CLAIMS REMAINING IN THIS APPLICATION (AS AMENDED)**

8. (new) A data recording method for recording data onto a recording medium to be reproduced by a reproduction device having a buffer memory for temporarily storing the data, comprising the steps of:
- receiving a variable bit-rate data stream;
  - detecting a continuous recordable area of at least a predetermined size on said recording medium, said predetermined size being determined on the basis of the length of time for which stored data can be output from said buffer memory with no additional data being stored to the buffer; and
  - recording the data in the continuous recordable area.

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detecting means for detecting a continuous recordable area of at least a predetermined size on said recording medium; said predetermined size being determined on the basis of the length of time for which the variable bit-rate data can be reproduced at a maximum bit-rate without an interruption; and

recording means for recording the data in the continuous recordable area.

12. (new) A data recording apparatus, comprising:

receiving means for receiving a variable bit-rate data stream;

storing means for temporarily storing said variable bit-rate data stream into a buffer memory;

detecting means for detecting a continuous recordable area on said recording medium of at least a predetermined size for which the variable bit-rate data can be reproduced without an interruption; and

recording means for recording the data in the continuous recordable area.

13. (new) A data recording method for recording data onto a recording medium to be reproduced by a reproduction device having a buffer memory for temporarily storing the data, comprising the steps of:

inserting variable bit-rate data smaller than a predetermined size; said predetermined size being determined on the basis of the length of time for which the variable bit-rate data can be reproduced at a maximum bit-rate without an interruption;

combining the inserted data with recorded data adjacent to the inserted data to form a data unit of at least said predetermined size;

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recording means for recording the data unit in a continuous recordable area on the recording medium.